

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065666

47

ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065666

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, SREF, PN, PQ, CU

SUBJECT:ASYLUM REQUESTS OF ERNESTO MARTIN PEREZ AND
MANUEL MIRANDA QUIROGA

REFERENCES: (A) PANAMA 1124; (B) A-40 OF 2/28/75

1. IN HANDLING ASYLUM REQUESTS OF MARTIN AND MIRANDA
CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES FOLLOWED CORRECT PROCEDURES ESTAB-
LISHED BY INTERESTED USG AGENCIES, CONTRARY TO FOREIGN MIN-
ISTER'S ALLEGATION. BASIS FOR FOREIGN MINISTER'S DESCRIP-
TION OF PROCEDURES IS UNCLEAR.

2. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMBASSY SUGGESTION THAT RESPONSE
TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S NOTE BE SIMILAR IN SUBSTANCE TO PARA-
GRAPH 7 OF STATE'S 93950 OF JUNE 15, 1970. IN ADDITION WE
SEE NO HARM IN INFORMING FOREIGN MINISTER OF PRESENT STATUS
OF THE MATTER.

3. ACCORDINGLY, YOU MAY DELIVER THE FOLLOWING NOTE TO THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 065666

FOREIGN MINISTRY:

4. BEGIN TEXT QUOTE I HAVE THE HONOR TO REFER TO YOUR EXCELLENCE'S NOTE OF FEBRUARY 17 CONCERNING TWO CUBAN CITIZENS, ERNESTO MARTIN PEREZ AND MANUEL MIRANDA QUIROGA, WHO "JUMPED SHIP" IN THE PANAMA CANAL ON DECEMBER 29, 1974.

5. AFTER MR. MARTIN AND MR. MIRANDA LEFT THE SHIP, BOTH MEN WERE PICKED UP IN THE CANAL BY A PANAMA CANAL COMPANY LAUNCH, AT WHICH TIME THEY REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM. THEY WERE THEN TURNED OVER TO THE CANAL ZONE POLICE FOR CUSTODY PENDING APPROVAL BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OF THEIR REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. ON JANUARY 13, 1975 MR. MARTIN AND MR. MIRANDA WERE GRANTED PAROLE STATUS TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES. THEY DEPARTED THE CANAL ZONE ON JANUARY 17.

6. IN REGARD TO YOUR REFERENCE TO THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONCERNING POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE CANAL ZONE, I WISH TO CONFIRM ON BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT THAT THE CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES DO NOT PERMIT ANY PERSONS TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN THE CANAL ZONE OTHER THAN THOSE CONTEMPLATED IN ARTICLE III (2) OF THE 1936 GENERAL TREATY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE GENERAL PRACTICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, THE CANAL ZONE AUTHORITIES HAVE FOR MANY YEARS PERMITTED INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING POLITICAL ASYLUM TO REMAIN IN THE CANAL ZONE TEMPORARILY UNTIL THEIR DEPARTURE TO THE APPROPRIATE JURISDICTION COULD BE ARRANGED AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE. END QUOTE KISSINGER

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